

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording head, comprising:
  - a magnetoresistive layer having a first end and a second end;
  - a soft adjacent magnetic transverse bias layer (SAL) having a first end and a second end;
  - an insulating layer arranged between said magnetoresistive layer and said SAL;
  - a conductive layer electrically contacting said first end of said magnetoresistive layer and said first end of said SAL; and
  - an insulator film ~~contact~~ electrically isolating said second end of said SAL from said second end of said magnetoresistive layer.

2-3. (canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The magnetic recording head of claim 1, wherein thickness of said magnetoresistive layer is more than 50 Å and less than 400 Å.

5. (Previously Presented) The magnetic recording head of claim 1, wherein thickness of said SAL is less than 500 Å, and the moment ratio of said SAL to said magnetoresistive layer ranges from 0.6 to 1.0.

6-7. (canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The magnetic recording head of claim 1, wherein said insulating layer ranges from 50 Å to 200 Å in thickness.

9. (Previously Presented) The magnetic recording head of claim 8, wherein said insulating layer is formed of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

10. (canceled)